## Message Text

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O 191527Z JAN 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4614

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PASS EB/MA FOR R. K. BANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, PORG

SUBJECT: RESUMED THIRD SESSION, UNCTAD IPG ON MULTIMODAL
TRANSPORT - REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY FOR US DEL TO WALK OUT

1. ON MONDAY, JAN 17, G-77 SPOKESMAN (NAJERA, MEXICO) DELIVERED LENGTHY STATEMENT ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IM-PLICATIONS OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT WHICH CONTAINED LONG LIST OF G-77 PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION OF PUBLIC LAW PROVISIONS IN NEW CONVENTION. G-77 POINTS INCLUDED MANDATORY CONSULTATIONS AMONG MTOS, SHIPPERS AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES CONCERNING INTRODUCTION OF MT SERVICES; COMPATIBILITY WITH CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS OF CODE CONTROLS OVER FREIGHT RATES AND OF NATIONAL CARGO RESERVATIONS: MANDATORY ACCEPTANCE BY COMMERCIAL BANKS OF NEGOTIABLE DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY MTOS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: FULL UTILIZATION OF LOCAL LABOR BY MTOS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; LICENSING AND CONTROL OF MTOS BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF MTOS; AND AN INSURANCE SYSTEM RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUIRING MANDATORY DEVELOPING COOUNTRY MARKET OVER ALL CARGO INSURANCE, PLUS COMPLETELY NEW MANDATORY INSURANCES FOR FIDELITY GUARANTEE AND FOR CIVIL LIABILITY ALSO ENTIRELY IN LDC MARKET.

2. G-77 ALSO CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR INCLUSION OF CUSTOMS PROVISIONS, ALTHOUGH G-77 PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT

## HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED.

- 3. DISCUSSIONS OF DOCUMENTATION QUESTIONS IN IPG'S WORKING GROUP HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT G-77 COMMITTED TO A CONVENTION MANDATORY FOR ALL MULTIMODAL MOVEMENTS. G-77 SPOKESMAN HAS ALSO MADE CLEAR IN WORKING GROUPS THAT G-77 VIEWS EVENTUAL CONVENTION AS A DEVICE TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MAINTAINING OR EXTENDING CARGO AND INSURANCE ALLOCATION SYSTEMS. G-77 HAS THEREFORE CONTINUED TO INSIST UPON INCLUSION OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION IN MT DOCUMENT REGARDING VALUE OF GOODS, DETAILS OF INSURANCE, ROUTES AND VESSELS USED. SUCH INFORMATION NOT NECESSARY TO MTO, BUT HELPFUL TO LDCS IN POLICING CARGO AND INSURANCE ALLOCATION SCHEMES.
- 4. IN SUM, G-77 IS EFFECTIVELY DEMANDING A SORT OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MTOS, RATHER THAN A PRIVATE LAW FACILITATION CONVENTION OF THE TYPE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US AND OTHER B GROUP COUNTRIES.
- 5. IN LIGHT OF G-77 POSITION, US ON 1/17 AND 1/18
  FIRMLY PRESSED FOR GROUP B AGREEMENT TO A SHORT BUT
  FIRM PLENARY STATEMENT MAKING CLEAR THAT GROUP B DOES
  NOT BELIEVE A CONVENTION TO BE INDISPENSIBLE; AND
  REAFFIRMING B'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO INCLUSION
  OF PUBLIC LAW. ALTHOUGH ALL B'S AGREED WITH SUBSTANCE OF
  US PAPER, AND NETHERLANDS SUPPORTED FULLY, MOST ARGUED
  THAT US PAPER WAS CONFRONTATIONAL AND THAT B NEEDED TO
  CAREFULLY ASSESS G-77 FLEXIBILITY AND TO STUDY G-77
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MONDAY STATEMENT NOTED PARA ONE. SCANDINAVIANS, INCLUDING GROUP B CHAIRMAN BLOM, PARTICULARLY STRONG IN OPPOSITION TO US PROPOSAL. UK AND FRG NOTED RELUCTANCE TO MAKE ANY "PROVOCATIVE" STATEMENT BEFORE SATURDAY MEETING ON CODE OF CONDUCT.

- 6. FOR THE MOMENT, GROUP B HAS AGREED ONLY THAT BLOM (B CHAIRMAN) SHOULD ORALLY PRESENT B'S VIEWS TO G-77 COORDINATOR. SEVERAL DELS, HOWEVER, HAVE INDICATED SUPPORT FOR FOLLOW-UP B STATEMENT LATE THIS WEEK OR MONDAY, JAN 24.
- 7. DEL SEES NO PROSPECTS OF A SUITABLE CONVENTION EMERGING FROM IPG. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT G-77 IS SERIOUS ABOUT ITS PUBLIC LAW DEMANDS, AND HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN A PRIVATE LAW FACILITATION CONVENTION. WE SEE US OBJECTIVE NOW TO BE TO PREVENT SUCH A CONVENTION FROM COMING ABOUT. FEW (IF ANY) B'S APPEAR TO VIEW THE SITUATION AS CRITICALLY AS DOES US, ALTHOUGH CONCERN IS

SLOWLY INCREASING. GROUP B HAS SHOWN AN INCREASING TENDENCY TO ENGAGE IN DEBATE IN THE WORKING GROUP AND TO COTEST MOVES BY G-77 TO INTRODUCE PUBLIC LAW MATTERS.

- 8. IDEAL TACTICAL OUTCOME WOULD BE A WALKOUT OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF B GROUP COUNTRIES FROM IPG, BUT WE SEE NO CLEAR PROSPECTS FOR OTHER B'S FOLLOWING U.S. IN WALKING OUT THIS WEEK.
- 9. US DEL WILL ACCORDINGLY PRESS FOR B AGREEMENT
  TO MAKE STRONG PLENARY STATEMENT ON LACK OF NEED
  FOR A CONVENTION AND STATING OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC
  LAW PROPOSALS, FOR DELIVERY THIS WEEK. IF WE
  CANNOT GET B GROUP AGREEMENT, DEL PROPOSES TO MAKE STRONG
  PLENARY STATEMENT ITSELF AND ANNOUNCE THAT IT CANNOT
  IN GOOD FAITH CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN IPG. DEL
  WOULD THEN LEAVE GENEVA. THIS ISSUE WILL COME TO A
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HEAD THURSDAY OR FRIDAY, 1/20 OR 1/21.

- 10. IF ADEQUATE B STATEMENT MADE AND GROUP OF 77 REACTION UNSATISFACTORY, DEL WILL SEEK TO GET OTHER B'S (HOPEFULLY DUTCH, UK, JAPAN AND FRENCH) TO JOIN IN A CONFRONTATION AND A WALKOUT EARLY NEXT WEEK, BUT DEL MAY GO IT ALONE IF NECESSARY.
- 11. DEL HAS DOUBTS THAT A UNILATERAL US WALKOUT WILL BRING UNCTAD IPG WORK TO A FINAL HALT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY STIFFEN THE SPINES OF OTHER B GROUP COUNTRIES. IPG MAY WELL GO ON AND EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MTOS. NEVERTHELESS, DEL DOES NOT SEE HOW US CAN IN GOOD FAITH CONTINUE IN A NEGOTIATION WHICH IS ON THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TO A WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE RESULT.
- 12. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT CONCURRENCE IN APPROACH DESCRIBED PARAS 9 AND 10.
- 13. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSULT DOT (DRISCOLL), MARAD (ARMSTRONG) AND COMMERCE (JOHNSON). CATTO

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